Macdonald, John of Garth. (1774-1860?66)

-Photograph from an original painting.

Macdonald, John of Garth
From an original painting

Edmonton Has Offer Of Collection Of Relics Of New Fort Augustus

Must be Kept in Museum Quarters and Monument Erected

Providing it is kept in suitable museum quarters and that some kind of monument or stone cairn is erected in the city to commemorate the founding of New Fort Augustus, on the site of which Edmonton now stands, this city has the offer of a collection of relics belonging to MacDonald of Garth, founder of New Fort Augustus in 1798.

MacDonald's grandson, now living in Montreal, has made an offer of the entire collection, including letters and the journal of MacDonald of Garth. The relics are of priceless historical and romantic value to the background and origin of Edmonton although no attempt has yet been made by anybody in Edmonton to secure them by carrying out the simple conditions attached to the offer.

DUELLING PISTOLS

Part of the relics is a brace of silver plated duelling pistols which MacDonald of Garth was noted for always carrying in his belt, being the first "two-gun" man of record in the west. According to the information regarding him available, he was "quick on the draw" and never missed his man.

Of the greatest historical value, however, is the well written journal kept by Macdonald, which with a number of letters, are still in a wonderful state of preservation. The letters are to some of the famous explorers of the Northwest of the earliest days, including Samuel Hearne and Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

The offer was made by Macdonald's grandson, through Professor E. A. Corbett of the University of Alberta, and was mentioned by the latter at Camrose on Friday evening when addressing a Camrose Normal School audience on the history of the western plains.

FAMOUS EXPLORERS

In his address, Professor Corbett gave brief sketches of all the famous explorers of the Northwest, as well as of others not so well known. It was while telling of some of the members of the old North-West Trading Company that he mentioned the treasure-trove that is only awaiting suitable action by some interested organization to find a permanent home in Edmonton.

According to Professor Corbett, Anthony Hendry was probably the first white man to come into Alberta, he having visited what is now the Drumheller district in 1754, and coming north to the Battle

Bulletin
Dec 1933

the whole, been extended in this Province by those whom the proposed legislation purports to restrain and control. All creditors recognize their inability to escape losses incident to the vicissitudes and perils of business. The proposed legislation, however, introduces a new and dangerous principle, namely: that the State shall have the right to vary or alter contracts entered into in mutual good faith, at least that is the interpretation which we believe is fairly placed on certain clauses of the Bill.

We are of the opinion that the enactment of such legislation would interdict the very classes it seeks to protect from necessary credit of any form and destroy the credit of thousands more. This would be harshly embarrassing to all the farmers of this Province. Existing farm equipment has reached a state where replacements are necessary. Obviously, after so many months of depression, the farmers are not in a position to purchase for cash, but their moral responsibility and good record are such that credit is still available for them, provided no further restrictions are placed on sales made on a credit basis. Moreover, restricted legislation of this character may so reduce the volume of goods sold on credit that many established businesses in the Province may be unable to survive.

Superadded to these requirements of private credit are the needs of the municipalities and of the Province itself for financial help with their respective difficulties. We have had direct and undisputed proof of the alarm that is felt in certain quarters at the proposed legislation, and that alarm will manifest itself in a reluctance to purchase the securities of the various governmental bodies in Alberta.

We do not attempt to enter into a technical discussion of the Bill, but we understand that great difficulties are foreseen in the application of its various provisions. We further understand that independent and competent authorities have expressed grave doubts as to the actual constitutionality of the measure.

Finally, we urge that no further tightening up of debt adjustment legislation be enacted, pending the time when the return to normal conditions will permit the repeal of all such restrictive measures.

Yours truly,

John Blue

JOHN BLUE,
Manager-Secretary.

JB:LC

22 Nov/33

JOHN MACDONALD OF GARTH - THE ORIGINAL EARLY SETTLER .

The glamor and romance of adventure, the clinging traditions of history, the memory of notable deeds of the past and a national ancestry, are not usually associated by the new westerner with the story of his own adopted land. In the excitement of the hour, in the task of converting a wilderness into the populous home of a virile and wealthy race, he has little opportunity to think of the things of the past. If he were able to do so, and to study the history of the north, of the founding of Fort Augustus, the original Edmonton, he would find in that study an inspiration and a new sense of pride in the name of "Westerner", he would realize that in the past, as it does today, that name has stood for enterprise, daring and courage.

More than a century has passed since in 1798, John Macdonald of Garth, traversing a continent by the primitive means which were alone available in the days before railways and roads, landedon the banks of the Saskatchewan and established near the point where the Old Hudson Bay fort stands today, the first trading post in the northwest country. It was the old North West company in those days that controlled the great fur trade, and it was in behalf of that company that Macdonald, in company with Hughes and Shaw, opened up the wilderness to commerce. Not until another century had passed was his work to bear fruit, was the mistress of the north to come into her own.

Of the history of the difficulties and dangers of that first journey, by lake and river, by pony and by foot, a fragment has been preserved to the people of today. To the great great grand-son of the pioneer's brother, A. C. Macdonald of this city, the diary of the long journey has come down. The document sheds an interesting light on travel in the days when only the fringe of the Atlantic had been ~~xxxxxxx~~ colonized by the white man, and the interior was a wilderness given over to the bison and to the warlike pursuit of I$_n$dian braves. It is one of the earliest records of the western domain, the first commercial bulletin in which Edmonton found a place.

In his youth, Macdonald's parents had planned for him a military career. His father was a captain in the old 84th Highland regiment and it was an addicent of childhood that determined that Macdonald fils should follow commercial, not military, purspits. Owing to injuries which he had sustained to his right arm, the young Macdonald was unable to pass the medical examination necessary for admission to the army. Three years later, his grand uncle, General Small, secured a position for him with the Northwest Company and promised him a partnership. In the spring of 1791, John Macdonald left for Canada.

Today the globe trotter "seeing Canada" from the rear of an observation car, is carried across the continent to Edmonton in four days, and throughout the journey he is attended by all the comforts and

luxuries incident to life in a first-class hotel. For Macdonald of Garth the journey in broken stages, occupied seven years and from his first entry into the primitive af Lachine, near Montreal, until his arrival on the banks of the North Saskatchewan, his life was one never ending adventure, while at times even life hung by a thread.

In a large birch bark canoe, manned by fourteen stalward voyageurs, with a cook as an indispensable member of the crew, he left Lachine on June 15,1791. Up Lake Huron, to Sault Ste Marie, then up Lake Superior and on to the Great North West, the little party of traders and pioneers made their way. "From Greenoch on the Clyde", wrote Macdonald in his diary, " my first summer tour was to Lac d'Original, a zig-zag distance of perhaps 8,000 miles". It would appear that the "Lac d'Original" referred to by Macdonald, was the Old Fort d'Original on the upper course of the Beaver river and northwest of Edmonton and not the Lac d'Original near Tete Juan Cache, the source of the Fraser River.

Unknown water courses, vast stretches of prairie, the party crossed, travelling ever westward, guided by compass across an uncharted country. Macdonald remained in the northwest until 1816, founding a number of outposts, of which Fort Augustus was one. On that site Edmonton now stands.

In Masson's " Les Bourgeois de la campagne(Compagnie) du Nord Ouest" now a very

rare edition, Macdonald's character is described as brave,rash,reckless and domineering. He was,however,the historic record continues," Just such a man as was required in the undisciplined and lawless wilds of the North West. His indomitable pluck and courage carried him through where many would have failed and his frank and generous nature endeared him to many. The beneficial influence of his high character was particularly felt when the first open acts of hostility broke out between the governor of Red River and the North West company."

Macdonald definitely left the North West in 1816,and settled at Gray's creek in the county of Glengarry where he died at the age of ~~86~~ -93-, leaving several children,among them the late Judge Rolland Macdonald of Ontario and M. de Bellefeuille Macdonald of Montreal.

-o-

John Macdonald

of

Garth

J. de L. Macdonald
4067 Tupper St.
Montreal

MONTREAL
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1933
QUEBEC

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VETTOY
PEINTUR
EMBELLIS

Mr E A Corbett.
Director
University of Alberta
Edmonton.
Al.

1

Some Relics of John Macdonald of Garth. in the possession of his grand-son A. de Lévy Macdonald, of Rifaud- N.2

—

Seven silver mounted, walnut-handled Pistols - with the initials "J. McD" - used by M.G. while in the North West - (1791-1816) -

Duelling Pistols - silver mounted, with fold insertions & initials "D. McG." - presented to M.G. by Duncan McGillivray - brother to the Hon: William McGillivray - Head Partner of the N.W. Co - who had married Magdeleine, sister of M.G. - D. McG. had these pistols in the North West - while there. -

Writing Table (mahogany) - 2 card tables of Venered Birds Eye maple, ancient - Cloth, China, Russian Samovar, Etc - all at one time in the "Château St-Antoine," residence of the Hon. William McGillivray, in Montreal - [opposite the Grey Nuns Convent - on Dorchester St. - west of Guy St] -

Mrs MacGillivray died in Dec 1810. -

M.G. bought from Col. Gray of the Royal Newfoundland Regt. (U.E.L.) - his estate of Gray's Creek - 3 miles East of Cornwall

2/ in 1816. & built - a residence on the Estate, which he called "Garth." —

When Mr Gillespie left for Scotland - about this date, he gave the above articles, among others, to Mrs D. of G. —

It was on this writing Table, that Mr of G: in 1859 - wrote his autobiography, Notes, &c - the sequel - this pamphlet - in - law Mr and de Bellefeuille Macdonald. —

Oil portrait of Wm Mr Gillespie - painted in England - by some high class artist.

Large Oil painting of Mr & Mrs G. & his wife: - by Col: Dunlop pré (the painter of the day in Montreal) painted in the garden of the Chateau St Antoine. — about - 1800. —

Pastel of Archibald Norman Mr Leod, Esq Writer. - Inverness by Dunlop pré -

(The Diary & books of Mrs D. of G. are in the Library of the Gaelic Society.)

Two Portraits of Mr & Mrs G. - at the age of 30 & 90 years.

Dining Table from the Château St Antoine.

Certificate of membership of Mr G. in the Highland Society of London - signed 1809 - by the Duke of Sutherland - Mr G. had been admitted in 1804. —

406 Jasper
Montreal
17 Jan 37

Mr E McCorkell
Edmonton

dear Mr. Corkell:

Mr Côté, of Edmonton, called on me some time ago & asked me for a list of some of the books with which we have, — in the view to writing something for your local papers.

I have lost his address, & would ask you to kindly forward inclosed to him, — also making me of same yourself — if intended.

I explained to Mr Côté, that I did not wish it to appear that I had offered to

on condition of some moments being wicked to this money.

This would be a most indelicate procedure on my part—

It is my intention, in any event to present Sometime in Edmonton connected with the Ry.— but I will really please, that the major part of my papers are already at McGill & that the Redford Museum, is the most logical place, to gather all memorials of the with Kind to.— Sometime soon the Head Quarters of the Co.

With Kindest remembrances

Yours

Duncan Macdonald

9934 — 105 St —
Edmonton
3rd Jan 1941

Regent of the
Macdonald of Garth
Dear Madam,

In an old local paper
I chanced to notice an item in
regard to "war work" of your
Chapter and I became
interested by the name
because "John Macdonald
of Garth" was my Grand Father's
Brother and although I have

some history in connection
I would be pleased if any of
your chapter could give me
any facts which I do not possess
from what I understand
facts was the name given to
your chapter & as he had "passed
on" so many many years ago

I have a photo of Lieut "
taken from the "Oil painting
which is in the possession
of the family of my late Brother
Donald who died in new
Cabonga [illegible] 1850 being in
the old fashioned knee breeches
and long coat and I realize more than
ever before how much
your chapter could help me
if you could give me
any information
I am sure
I am sure
I am sure
I am sure

in the former war and so does France at Japan Duchess Duke in England and Canada and I am a life member of the Red Cross so you can see I am interested in your work but it is a little hard to think of girls I am only too sorry to keep I am really troubling you too much by asking for information and thanking you in advance

I am Sincerely
(Miss) Catherine Macdonald
9934 — 105th St
Edmonton
Alta

Death –

It is my wish, that my Body should be laid out in the Lower room, now Geo. Hanson's the Last Bed, but a Sufficient Notice, of the day & Hour of my Funeral –

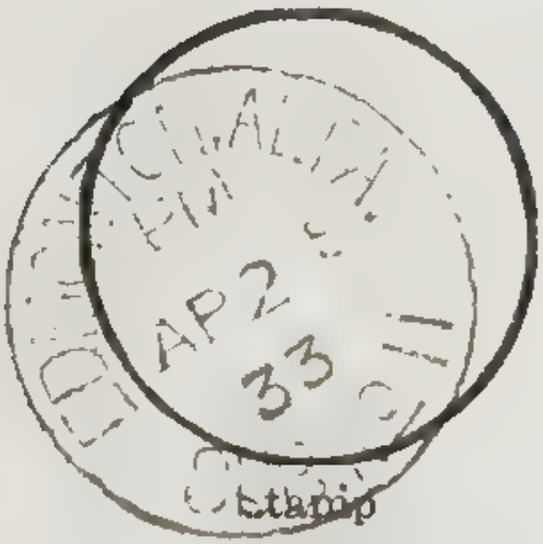
A Table laid out in the Gallery with a Barrel of good Beer (Rotting, Sharpen) & Plenty of good Bread & good Cheese – with Lady's Fingers a Pail of fine clean water & a good Gal to wash the Tumblers – & keep them with clean Towels

J. Mc Donald
1st June 1859

from Sept 1 - 1857 - to Sept 1 - 1859

CERTIFICATE OF POST OFFICE REGISTRATION

Date



No. 1570

.....
Postmaster

FEE If more than 10c. | C.

Retain this receipt. You will need it in case an enquiry is necessary.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR DELIVERY IN CANADA

Maximum Indemnity of	$ 25	when	10c.	Fee is	Paid
" "	$ 50	"	20c.	"	
" "	$ 75	"	30c.	"	
" "	$100	"	40c.	"	

50B.—1,500,000—19-11-29

31st March, 1933.

Mr. A. de Lery Macdonald,
4067 Tupper St.
Westmount,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

I was glad to receive your letter of March 25th. It is interesting to know that Macdonald of Garth still has some of his descendants left in Canada.

I recently prepared a history of Alberta from the time of the fur-traders up to the present, which is to be published by Dents Publishing Company as soon as the market for books revives a little, and one chapter of the history is devoted to the activities of your ancestor who, as you know, built New Fort Augustus where Edmonton now stands, in 1795, and later established Rocky Mountain House in 1802. Any information that I have been able to gather about his life and activities has been taken from Masson's book, together with occasional references in the Journals of various other explorers and traders. It is quite unlikely that I have any information beyond that which you already possess.

I would be very greatly indebted to you if I could get a copy of his photograph for my book. We could reproduce it in our studios here if you are willing to let us have it long enough to make a copy.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R.A.CORBETT.
DIRECTOR.

B'C/AN.

406 Tupper = Westmount.
Montreal
25 March 33

Mr Carlet
University of Alberta
Edmonton

Dear Sir:

I had the pleasure of meeting yesterday Father Andrew Macdonell, who informed me that you had mentioned in a lecture, my gr-father, John Macdonell of Garth.

I am preparing to publish in addition to his autobiographical Notes — with copious additions & a complete history of the Macdonells of Glengarry, of which he was, (without knowing it), the 23rd Chief.

The last-chief — Chichester Macdonell, having died, without issue, about — 1840, it is necessary to revert — to the elder branch of Glengarry, the Achnacone-ans [ousted out of their rights of succession in 1660], to trace the next-chief — who was John of Garth.

I intend assuming the Chiefship —

on the advice of the historian of Clan Donald.—

I would much appreciate the privilege of reading any notes you may have on my grand father.—

I have two portraits of him,—one a young man & the other taken when he was 89.—

Some years ago I lent my gr-father's memoires to Mr Masson, who published certain extracts of same.

Yours truly

A. de Léry Macdonald

19th April, 1933.

Mr. de Lery Macdonald,
4067 Tupper St.
Montreal, Que.

My Dear Mr. Macdonald:

Many thanks for your interesting letter of April 7th, together with photograph of Macdonald of Garth and documents.

I am having a photograph made of the painting made at Cobourg, and will send the original back at once.

I am not quite clear what disposition I am free to make of the documents. Was it your wish that they should be put in the University Museum here? I have had the letter from Fraser and the Statement of Claim drawn up in 1799 by Macdonald of Garth framed in order to place them in an exhibition of Edmonton historic relics which is being held in the Museum here next week. They are to be placed behind glass and carefully hung, and will undoubtedly be the prize exhibits of the show. There certainly will not be anything else as old as Fraser's letter or of the financial statement drawn in 1799.

I am expecting to be in Montreal in May and will be staying with my brother who is Dean of the Law School at McGill. I shall bring with me at that time a copy of the reference made to your ancestors in my book, and with your permission will call and have a talk with you. Meanwhile many thanks for your kindness in allowing us the use of these interesting remains.

Hoping to see you soon,

Yours sincerely,

E.A.CORBETT.
DIRECTOR.

EAC/AN.

4067 Ruffner
Montreal
8 Oct. 33

Mr E A Corbett
Edmonton
Alta.

Dear Sir: Notman & Co. the photographers, have just advised me that it would not be wise to risk the old portrait of John M. of Bath in the mail. —— but suggested that I have a copy made for me. They are looking up the old negatives to see if the original negatives is still available. If not will reproduce from my proof copy.

Yours truly
A. Lery Macdonald

406 Tupper
Montreal
7 April '33

E A Corbett Esq
Edmonton

Dear Sir: I am forwarding you the two portraits - I have of John Mc of Barth - to be used as you may see fit. - Should you decide to take photographic copies. - I would appreciate your sending me two of each — The portrait (old) is the only copy I know of - It was made by Notman - about 1860 - The other (young) is from a Pastel - at Cobourg - which I am trying to get. -

I also enclose three documents which speak for themselves. - The Fraser document is unique - In fact - it might be considered as the last relic of the N.W. Co - I need not ask you to protect this one in particular -

The autograph note to Mathice might be placed in the museum if you deem it - as a gift - of the matter's grandson. - It will attain the century mark next Feb. -

Would it be possible for me to have a look at the chapter you have prepared on John Mc'D. as I infer it will be sometime before your book is published

Mathice was a leading merchant of Montreal - his second wife was a daughter of the Revd Dr Jenkins -

Yours sincerely
D McLeroy Macdonald

Rifaud – Luc –
22 April. 1935

E. A. Corbett Esq.
University of Alberta
Edmonton

Dear Mr Corbett:

We are arranging the formation of a special Room in the McCord Museum to house portraits & relics of the Old Nor'Westers. As I am placing in this Room every thing I have connected with N.W. of Saint, Mackenzie, &c. I would appreciate [illegible] returning me the Fraser-Macdonald document of 1853 – at your convenience – with a copy of the financial statement (1799) which I desire to give Mr. Burpee.

I will find something else

to send you relating to my father.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Frederick Leighton

2nd May, 1945.

Mr. J de Cery Macdonald,
Niçoal,
.ue.

Dear Mr.Macdonald:

I am enclosing herewith your Fraser-Macdonald document of 1855, with copy of the financial statement (1770) [illegible] I had framed and hung in our reception room. However, we have taken it out of the frame, and trust that you will find it in good order.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

W.J.GOURLEY.
DIRECTOR.

MK.

LETTER FROM SIMON FRASER, DISCOVERER OF THE FRASER RIVER, TO MCDONALD OF GARTH, ONE OF EDMONTON'S FOUNDERS, DATED 1st AUGUST, 1859.

We are the last of the old N. W. Partners -- We have known one another for many years -- which of the two survives the other we know not -- we are both aged -- we have lived in mutual esteem and fellowship -- we have done our duty in the stations alloted us without fear, or reproach we have braved many dangers -- we have run many risks -- we can not accuse one another of any thing mean and dirty through life -- nor done any disgracefull actions -- nor wrong to others -- we have been feared, loved and respected by natives -- we have Kept our men under subordination -- we have thus lived long lives X and as this is probably the last time we meet on earth -- we part as we have lived in sincere friendship & mutual good will.

Yours &c

1st Aug^{t} 1859

Simon Fraser.

X We have both crossed this continent -- we have explored many new points -- we have met many new Tribes -- we have run our race & X

Rifaud
11 May 85

E. A. Corbett Esq
Edmonton

Dear Mr Corbett,

The Fraser-Macdonald mss of 1859 received.

I will send from some other relics of interest to the West to replace this one.

Yours very truly

A. Rifaud Macdonald

406 Tuffen
Montreal
22 May 33

W. L. M. Corbett
Edmonton

[Bond-St-Gibraltar]

Dear Mr Corbett.

John M. of Garth had several children
while in the North West, from a woman of
the Cree Tribe. — These children were sent
to schools in Montreal & given every advantage.
all made alliances with prominent families.
1st William — became a Surveyor. He settled
in New Carlisle & married. He left a number
of daughters, but no sons. — Sir Archibald Camp-
bell, Governor of New-Brunswick — about 1834
was married to the sister of M. of Garth &
probably assisted William — who made a
number of valuable maps of New-Brunswick —
2nd Rolland. — Also educated at St Thirien College.
& became a prominent Lawyer. — Was
K.C. for the County of
was appointed Judge. — He died at St Cathe-
rines, Ont. — Married Anna, daughter of the
Hon. Capt Boswell, R.N. & left a numerous
family, all

of [illegible] — Agnes. mar: Arthur Ross, a broker, of Montreal, is still living — abou[illegible] -86 years of age. — Emma, mar. to Edward Browning. - England. — Etc

3° Madeline - mar. to George Perry of Cobourg - Ont

4° Elizabeth — was brought up by the wife of Chief-Justice Reid - at Park House — Montreal (now Dolmer Park) — who was a sister of the Hon. Wm Macfarlane - mar. to Madeline, sister of M. of Garth —

5° Agnes, died - unmarried -

Wid of Garth - died in 1866 - at Gart = [illegible] - mar Carwell - Ont = & was buried in the family lot = on the Estate of Gart. =

Elizabeth, mar. - John Duncan Campbell, one of the Nor-Westers. — His son James Reid Campbell, was one of the claimants to the Earldom of Breadalbane.

John of Garth - was the Twentieth generation in direct descent from Somerled - Lord of the Isles - and was of the Kelpoch branch - descended from Alastair Carrach of the Isles, Lord of Lochaber - 1st Chief of Kelpoch. who was the son of John Lord of the Isles, & of the Princess Margaret daughter of Robert - II - of Scotland.

2/

About 1826 - M of Sy. mar. Amelia. daghr
of Duncan Mac Gillis, & Maria Cuthbert -
at Williamstown, Ont = Duncan was a
brother of Hugh & Alex. Gillis, Nor Wester, who
became Laird of Williamstown, — succeeded
Sir William Johnson — as Laird. —
Amelia Mc Gillis was a Catholic —

Issue: 1° Duncan - mar. Miss Mc Mar-
tin - who left - a daghr. - He was a lawyer
by profession & was employed in the
Post-Office Dep't = at - Ottawa —
2° John - died - at - Rupert-land, unmarried
3° Antoine de Bellefeuille — who
left - Grand Trunk - at - 14 yrs. - & settled in
New York, — where he acquired an exten-
ded Agency; but - the American Civil War
of 1860 - forced him to return to Montreal
in 1861. — The late Sir Roderick Cameron,
of Williamstown. — son of Duncan
Cameron, Nor Wester — was his boyhood
friend. — In 1853. A Bellefeuille mar = Louisa
Dau: of the Hon. Robert Unwin Harwood, Member
of the Legislative & Special Councils — and

of Louise Josephte, Seigneuresse of Vaudreuil & Cavagnal. whose ~~Her~~ father was the Hon. Alain Chartier de Lotbinière, Seigneur of Lotbinière, Vaudreuil, Rigaud & Cavagnal — who was the second Speaker of the Canadian Parliament — (1796). — The Marquis de Chartier de Lotbinière, Engineer — under Montcalm — was her gr-father —

Issue: 1° John de Lotbinière m- (Alexandria) unmarried
2 Charles de Bellefeuille (married) (unmarried)
3° Rolland; — married

The Jesuit-order — and died at — 28 yrs —

4° Archibald de Léry — Seigneur of Rigaud — married: Louise Augusta-daug: of Charles A.M. Globensky & of Virginie Lambert-Dumont, Seigneuresse of Ville-Isles & L'augmentation — in her time.

5° Alain Chartier — mar: Anna-daug: of Macdonald of Glenaladale, & niece of Sir William C. Macdonald, — with issue — one Son: Eoin Harwood Macdonald —

6° Amelia: unmarried

7° Louise "

3/

you ask'd me for a list of the children of Garth - born in the North West — I have added the other children & their progeny. I really do not - know why I am doing so; but - I presume it is because my persons runs away from me -

I endose copy of the letter of introduction given to John when in 1791 - at the age of 17 - he left for Canada — by his father, named John Arnold, - who died in 1796. Town of Guernsey. -

I am trusting, forward to the pleasure of reading from chapter of my forefather, when convenient - for you to send it - to me.

With best regards

de Lery Macdonald

I endose a shield of Garth. - Do not - know where I got it -

Letter of Lieut John Lendall - Governor of Guernsey,
to his fr: nephew John Macdonald of Garth
on his departure for Canada - at the age of
17 years - in 1791 -

March 18th 1791 -

My dear Nephew.

The enclosed letter being open (for
your perusal) I need scarce represent - to you the serious
and solemn manner I have (from a belief you
deserve it) pledged myself for your future upright-
and honourable good conduct. I trust - to the
favourable report - of your amiable & respectable
Aunt - Mrs Spalding & your dutiful good brother
Angus, that your appearance, your intelligi-
and decent - gentlemanlike behaviour will shelter
me from a possibility of ever having Cause to
regret my recommending you in the warm &
affectionate manner I have done to my
friends & relations, men of judgment & men of
honor. Let zeal, respect - & gratitude ever mark
your good conduct - to and those who protect
& employ you, and under whose care you
are placed.

Forget not, I pray & conjure you, your
duty - to God & to your superiors! Be modest,
mild & unassuming to your equals & even to
inferiors, and imitate the virtues of
your

grandfather who was to me in my ear
(what I wish to be now to you) a parent, a fri
and a protector, as well as a brother
whose memory I shall ever cherish with
fondness & reverence. —

Study to acquire mild, polished & refi-
manners. Be assured that modest and
unassuming behavior, will for better re-
commend you than confidence, pertness and
roughness. Be humble & meek to those you
are or may be placed under. Be affable &
courteous to all you converse with, gentle-
ness of manners and manliness of mind
were the distinguishing characteristics of
your grand-father. Let that idea be an
object of your contemplation as well as
imitation. —

Let Religion (which is ever a
cheerful and firmness of mind) be your guide on
all occasions, in or ill prosperity. Ever cause
you to forget that virtue and honour can
alone constitute real merit. —

Be assured that an observing & omnipotent
Providence ever delights in and protects real
goodness of heart and purity of mind.

Be the Divine & mercyful Power with you in your youthful years, and with fervent prayers for your present and future welfare

I ever am, dear John, your faithful friend & affectionate uncle

John Small

I shall be glad to hear from you before you sail, and, at least once or twice, every year after you arrive at your destination.

Adieu! and may God bless and protect you —

John of Garth — was born about — 17[illegible] — at Garth — Callandar — Perthshire. — Son of John & of G. Capt = old 84th — & of Magdalene. — dau[t]. of Capt James Small & Catherine Wilson —

Capt Small was Factor on the Perth Estate. — He apparently was much older than Edward

John — John of G. was an orphan — of father & mother

the year 1791. —

Spalding — made some improvements to the Diving Bell. — He was drowned investigating the Royal George — sunk at...

Letter of Sir George Simpson - Governor of the Hudson's Bay Co - to John Mc of Gault -

Hudson's Bay House
Lachine 2nd April '59

My dear Sir:

I had not the pleasure of your personal acquaintance in the North West, but your name was well known to me by reputation as one of the leading men of your day - your general popularity - was also evidenced by many good qualities which I need not at present specify. But I may notice as prominent points in your character your influence over the Indians both by your kindness & firmness, the admirable discipline maintained among the servants under your command, your knowledge of the arts most useful in the Indian country, your dexterity as a canoe man and as a hunter & horseman, your courage and enterprise, in short according to the reports I have heard, you possessed in a high degree the qualifications most useful in the career you had elected.

I regret that I have not time to say

into further details of which I know of
from a last useful & active life, but I trust
this testimony to your many good qualities
may be acceptable to your sons.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly
Geo. Simpson.

Original of this autograph letter in the
de Lery Macdonald Collection of Canadian
Historical Manuscripts in the Library of
McGill University - Montreal

29th May, 1933.

Mr. de Lery Macdonald,
4067 Tupper St.
Montreal, Que.

My Dear Mr. Macdonald:

Many thanks for the most interesting material enclosed in your letter of recent date.

I look forward sometime to writing the life of Macdonald of Garth in the form of a small book. I have always felt that he was one of the most colorful of the Nor'Westers and deserved a place all his own in the history of this Province.

I am writing to Judge Howay of the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada to inquire if something cannot be done to commemorate his work here on the Saskatchewan. I shall let you know what success I have later on. Meantime, I am enclosing the chapter in my manuscript dealing with his life.

I shall take great care of anything you send me, and if at any time you wish the return of any of these notes, please let me know. The letter from Simon Fraser, which you so kindly loaned to me, has been framed and is hung in our library under glass, and is an object of great interest to many people. I can send it back to you at once, or if you would like to leave it for say a year, we would be very glad to have it, and it is well protected and can come to no harm.

It was a great delight to meet you in Montreal. There is so much of the old school of gallantry and courtesy in your blood that it was a real thrill to see how it expresses itself in your manner of speech and in your very physical appearance. I have told your cousin J.K. Macdonald something about you and he is greatly interested and anxious to know more about your side of the family.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

E.A.CORBETT.
DIRECTOR.

EAC/AN.

20th Dec. 1933.

Mr. de Lery Macdonald,
4067 Tupper St.
Montreal, Que.

Dear Mr. Macdonald:

The Old Timers' Association of Edmonton, and the Historical Society of Camrose are both anxious to erect some sort of monument in memory of your grandfather. They are urged on, of course, by the hope of getting a share of whatever you have to give in the way of letters, diaries, relics, etc.

Would you let me know approximately what the local museum could expect to receive in the way of documents, letters, etc. in the event of their building the proposed cairn.

Yours sincerely,

E.A.CORBETT.
DIRECTOR.

EAC/AN.

406 Tupper
Montreal
15 June 83

E. A. Corbett Esq
Edmonton

My dear Mr. Corbett,

I duly rec'd your letter of my 9th & thank you for the very kind reference expressed in your letter, to my personality; but - I am afraid you are too indulgent: As however your last - thing is not a fraudful manner, I feel that I have no alternative, but - to accept - the compliments - conveyed.

I enclose a letter to my cousin, which I would ask you to kindly forward to him - as I have not - for his address.

The perusal of your note is my friend - gratified me and fired pleasure - & I take the liberty - of reading some

Comm'g,

On James:

Page 1 — Mr D of Ls. = was not of diminutive stature. — My mother told me that he was rather tall, but of slight & active build. — Very dignified & of courtious manners — not rough & red-haired as has been stated. — He died at the age of 93 = in 1866. — Up to the very last years this old school manners, never left him, — despite his 25 years in the wilderness among rough characters. — He would at 93 years never fail to rise, & stand, when his daughter in law, Emily young, would enter a room, where he was —

His Volumes about the Mr Ds being connected with Old Roads. — was not made soon after his arrival. — in 1791. — He was too young then to be interested in Pedigrees; — but was blamed at the beginning of his notes. — which he wrote at the request of my mother

2/ in 1859 — when he was in his 87th year.
He had a great sense of humour, — as
evidenced by this "Memorandum", as
he called it; about — Old Scott!
His father was called Scott — before
him — after his Estate. —
Angus Shaw — had married a sister
p. 2 of the Hon: Wm Macgillivray, — who had
in turn married Magdalen, Macdonell's
sister.
I understood that my g-father — had
p. 69 — acted as "Civil Commissioner" to take
possession of Assiná. — Could this be
corroborated?
p. 69 The Jenny Barnes incident — is in-
teresting. — Try & get some further
details about — this historic lady. —
p. 71 — He died at — 93. not — 86 —
What — about — the building of Fort-
Gibraltar (Winnipeg)?
With Kind regards
from mine
Archy Macdonald

Keep the Frame-work:
memorandum until
you hear further from
me —

6065 Aberdeen Ave W.
Montreal
P.Q.

Feb 17 - 1936

Professor E.A. Corbett
University of Alberta.
Edmonton

Dear Mr Corbett.

I am sending you for presentation to the Museum - a document - unique document - which speaks for itself. - I found it - in one of my grand father's farm books. - When he was short of help, - (he was continually writing) his farm books came in handy. -

When the Question of purchasing the N.W. Territories was being considered by my father waged incessant war on the Government - the advisability of the measure. - His personal knowledge of conditions made valuable. - There must be a number of his letters in the Ottawa Archives. - dated from 1859.

The document which I am mailing you, was drafted a few days before he

he records the last visit of his old friend Simon Fraser, to Gart House, Grays Creek, Cornwall. — 1st Sept 1859 —

John Macdonald of Gart; born 1773 — was consequently in his 86th year when he made this entry — which was somewhat premature as he lived until 25 Jan: 1866. & was buried in the family cemetery on Gart Estate. —

I am also enclosing some clippings from the Gazette & Star — which explain themselves. —

Having raised $1500 of taxes to meet — & for which I am pressed, I am selling my North West relics — to the Mc Lord Museum. —

However should some of your citizens care to have the Duncan Mc Killing pistols, at $200 — & the Macdonald gun at $100 — to bring them back to Edmonton — you have the preference — on these terms. — providing I hear from you shortly — as I am closing with The Mc Lord. —

Point the clippings might be reproduced in your local press. —

Yours truly

A. de Lery Macdonald

N.B. About - 1850 - my father had the old flint-
lock triggers on the pistols & gun replaced so
as to use percussion caps - This, of a improve-
ment, was nevertheless historically a mistake.

I remember, as a boy, shooting birds
at long range with the old gun. - I did
not mind the trigger being on the left-side.

A. Leighton Macdonald

17 Feb. 1936

Montreal Gazette 4

ONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1936.

Relics of the Old Nor'Westers

During the forty years from 1780 to 1820 the commercial development of Canada was mainly in the hands of the enterprising sons of old Scotland. Following in the footsteps of those old French explorers and traders, La Verendrye, Le Gardeur de St. Pierre, Boucher de Niverville, and others, whose heroic efforts brought them within sight of the Rocky Mountains, the partners of the old North West Fur Company, some of them of the best blood of Scotland, pushing their frail canoes from Montreal to the Pacific Coast and to the Arctic Ocean, and dotting the western plains with trading posts, now the great cities of Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, etc., revealed to the British Empire that Canada's inheritance comprised half a continent and the greatest wheat fields in the world.

Famous Traders

Scotchmen cannot read the records of the old North West and Hudson's Bay companies without experiencing a feeling of pride that the members of these vast organizations were of the Scottish race. All Canadians will agree that it is fitting that posterity be not allowed to forget the names of Alexander Henry, of Patrick Small, Isaac Todd, of the Frobishers, Simon McTavish, and his three nephews, the MacGillivrays, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Roderick McKenzie, Lord Selkirk, Archibald Norman McLeod, David Thompson, Simon Fraser, Angus Shaw, William McKay, Duncan Cameron, John Gregory, James McGill, Peter Grant, John George McTavish, John Duncan Campbell, Hugh McGillis, and so many others, not forgetting John Macdonald of Garth, the last of the old partners, who survived to 1866, and furnished in his 90th year much valuable personal information to the Government, when the purchase of the Hudson Bay Territories was being debated.

To perpetuate the memory of these pioneers of the West, I have long entertained the hope that some day the portraits of these men, with some of the furniture and other articles used by them and retaining the atmosphere of their daily lives, and the valuable manuscripts which they have left, would be got together and housed in a fireproof building, to be preserved and made accessible to future generations, for educational and patriotic purposes. The Chateau de Ramezay or the McCord Museum would be the proper locale for such a collection, where a "Room of the old Nor'-Westers" could be founded.

I think that such a project might be brought to a successful issue if the steps adopted a half-century ago, when we originated the Portrait Gallery and Museum in the Chateau de Ramezay were followed.

The two Exhibitions of Historical Portraits and Relics which we organized in 1887 and 1892 revealed to our citizens of those days the wealth of historical souvenirs still remaining in this province, and resulted in the formation of the Gallery in the old Chateau, where are accumulated hundreds of portraits and relics of inestimable Canadian historic value, many of which otherwise would probably have been destroyed or their identity lost.

I feel that an exhibition of portraits and relics of the old Nor' Westers to be held at the Chateau de Ramezay, or possibly in one of our great departmental stores, would bring forth from many unsuspected sources a surprising collection of portraits, furniture and other mementoes of transcendent historical interest, especially to our western country.

As the great part of these relics are to be found at present in our province, I consider that it is a duty for us to do what we can to salvage these souvenirs for our fellow-citizens of the West before it is too late.

As I am probably the nearest connection, at present living, of the principal members of the old company, I know where to look for such material, much of which, when I am gone, will be irreparably lost.

To demonstrate that the material for such a purpose is available, I have loaned to the McCord Museum some of the furniture formerly in the dining room of the Chateau St. Antoine, the residence, from 1798 to 1818, of the Hon. William MacGillivray, Chief Factor of the North West Company, and one of the three most influential Canadians of his day. These items consist of the dining table, two card tables, a folding mahogany table, an antique clock, a copper samovar, an oil portrait of MacGillivray, possibly by Sir John Martin, R.A., a family group of MacGillivray and his wife, Magdalene Macdonald, with a child, later the mother of General Brackenbury, painted by Dulongpre about 1803, and a pastel by Dulongpre, of Archibald Norman McLeod, prominent during the fights between the North West and Hudson's Bay companies, about 1816.

A Beau Brummel.

McLeod was the Beau Brummel of Montreal in his day. All these articles given by MacGillivray on his departure from Canada about 1818, to his brother-in-law, Macdonald of Garth, and removed by the latter to Gart House, which he had built on his Gray's Heath estate near Cornwall in 1816. There they remained until 1878, as well as the following items:

Macdonald's beautifully engraved certificate of membership in the Highland Society of London, 1804, signed by the Duke of Sussex, president. This document is probably unique in America.

Silver-mounted gun, with crest and initials, used by Macdonald in the North West.

Duelling pistols, by Mortimer and Co., London, used by Duncan MacGillivray in the North West, previous to 1806, and given by him to Macdonald. MacGillivray died at Montreal in 1808 and was buried next to his uncle, Simon McTavish, under the monument at the head of McTavish street.. It is now learned that Duncan MacGillivray crossed the Rockies six years before David Thompson's remarkable feat.

Portrait of Macdonald, painted about 1804.

Mahogany wine chest used by him in the North West.

Original memorandum of the last visit of Simon Fraser, discoverer of the Fraser River, to Macdonald at Gart House in 1859. They were the two last surviving partners of the Old Company. This writing is probably the last document linked with the old North West Company.

Autograph letter of David Thompson, dated 27 July, 1816.

The above MacGillivray relics would virtually reconstitute the old dining room of the St. Antoine Chateau, where William MacGillivray royally entertained all his confreres, as well as his opponents in the fur trade, including Lord Selkirk and John Jacob Astor, and also every personage of eminence who visited Montreal from 1798 to 1818, and where the Hon. James McGill was an habitual visitor.

A room thus furnished and enriched with some of the additional numerous portraits and relics of which I have knowledge, would indeed be a fitting "Home of the Old Nor'Westers."

An exhibition of western relics would, I am convinced, result in a movement for the preservation of these irreplaceable mementoes.

The grounds of the Chateau St. Antoine occupied the territory immediately west of Guy street, between St. Antoine street and what is now Dorchester street.

A. DE LERY MACDONALD.

Rigaud, January 23, 1936.

ly Star. PAGE

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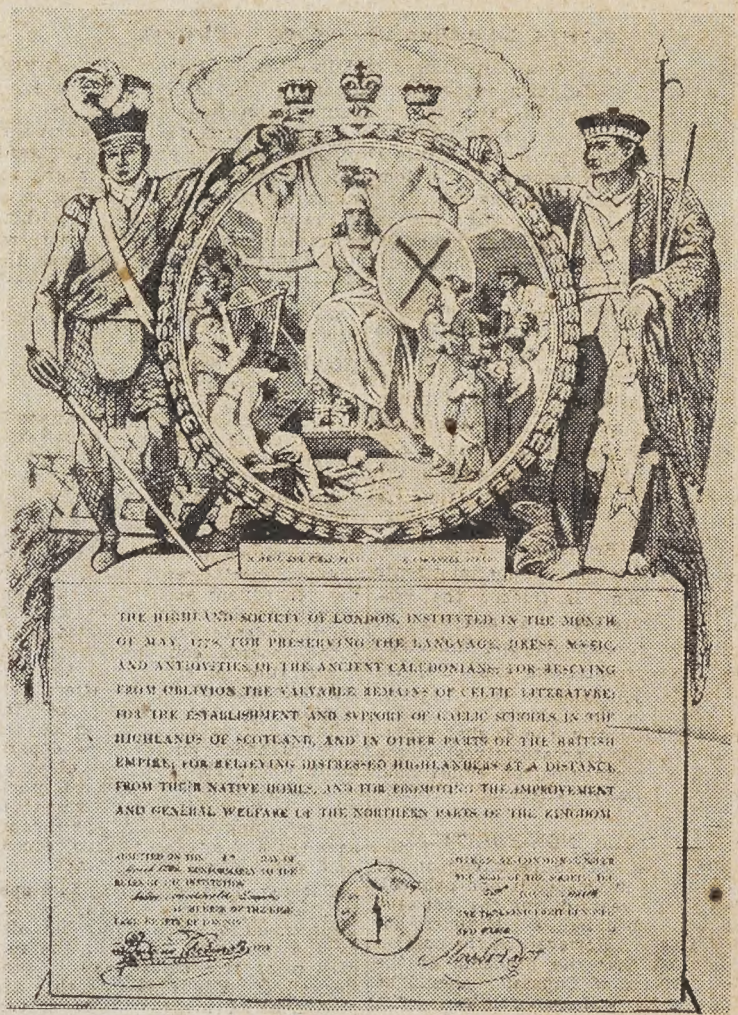
Unique Document in McCord Museum
Link With Pioneer Days in North West


THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF LONDON, INSTITUTED IN THE MONTH
OF MAY, 1778, FOR PRESERVING THE LANGUAGE, DRESS, MUSIC,
AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE ANCIENT CALEDONIANS; FOR RESCUING
FROM OBLIVION THE VALUABLE REMAINS OF CELTIC LITERATURE;
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF GAELIC SCHOOLS IN THE
HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND, AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE; FOR RELIEVING DISTRESSED HIGHLANDERS AT A DISTANCE
FROM THEIR NATIVE HOMES, AND FOR PROMOTING THE IMPROVEMENT
AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE NORTHERN PARTS OF THE KINGDOM.

Among the relics of the old Nor' Westers,—portraits, furniture, manuscripts, etc.,—at present on exhibition at the McCord Museum none offers greater interest to the Scottish element of Canada than the original certificate above reproduced of the Highland Society of London.

This certificate, dated at London, 1809, is signed by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, as President. It is probably the only one extant in America.

As evidence of the value attached to this old document when it was exhibited in a window of The Star some thirty-two years ago a letter was received from the Secretary in London asking if the relic could be acquired by the Society.

This document is also of Canadian interest as it refers to John Macdonald of Garth, the last surviving partner of the old Nor' West Fur Co., who outlived his associates by two generations, having died as late as 1866 in his 94th year. He first came to Canada in 1791, bound to the old Company.

It was in 1804, while on a visit to the Old Country, that he was admitted to the Society,—the purposes of which is set forth in the document.

The beautiful engraving, representing as supports a Scottish Warrior and Fisherman, is after Benjamin West.